



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE
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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS
MANCHESTER MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL WEAPONS CHARGES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka, and U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Resident Agent in Charge Clifford Ellston, announced that Eugene Svitak, formerly of Manchester, appeared in U.S. District Court and was sentenced after having pled guilty to federal weapons charges. Svitak was sentenced to four months in prison and two years of supervised release, ten months of which he will serve in home confinement.

On November 6, 2003, a federal grand jury returned an indictment against Svitak charging him with being a convicted felon in possession of three firearms in October, 2003 in Manchester, New Hampshire. Svitak pled guilty to the charges in January of this year.

The charges were the result of an investigation conducted into various crimes in the City of Manchester. During the course of the investigation, Svitak admitted to possessing two rifles and a handgun at his residence. Svitak had been previously convicted of attempted arson and second degree assault, both felonies, in New York in 1984. Convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition under federal law.

U. S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this office's commitment to prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by the Attorney General's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of dangerous felons is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we implement Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire."

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Manchester Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Helen White Fitzgibbon.